

THE REMINISCENCES OF CARL SCHURZ

his new home in America. As a matter of course, he at once embraced the anti-slavery cause with the warmest devotion, and became one of the leaders of the German-horn citizens of St. Louis, who, in the spring of 1861 by their courageous patriotism saved their city and their State to the Union. He then remained in public life as a journalist and as a speaker of sonorous eloquence. He was a man of absolute rectitude and honor and of infinite goodness of heart. His generosity seemed to know no thought of selfish advantage. There was something inspiring in the constant freshness of his enthusiasms for all that was good and great and beautiful, and his wrath at every wrong and meanness. His intense patriotism was that of a man of lofty ideals, and any service he could render to his country, was to him a source of almost childlike joy. We soon became warm friends, intimate in the best sense of the term. We did, indeed, not always think alike, for he was a much stronger partisan than I was. But no difference of opinion ever cast the slightest shadow upon our mutual confidence and the sincere warmth of our attachment.

As already mentioned, the *Westliche Post* was published in the German language. It may be in place here to say a word about a prejudice entertained by some well-meaning Americans, that the publication of newspapers, and perhaps even the making of political speeches in this republic in any

other language than the English, is an
undesirable, if not
positively dangerous practice. It is said that it
prevents im-
migrants from learning the language of the
country; that it
fosters the cultivation of un-American principles,
notions and
habits, and that it thus stands in the way of the
development
of a sound American patriotism in those coming
from foreign
lands to make their home among us, and to
take part in the
working of our free institutions. I think I may
say without